



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**NATURAL RESOURCES**  
HILARY S. FRANZ | COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

## MEDIA ADVISORY

JUNE 27, 2023

# Public Invited to Comment on Woodard Bay Conservation Area Expansion, Thurston County

OLYMPIA – The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will host a community meeting about a proposal to expand the Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA) boundary. The purpose of the meeting is to share information about the proposal and gather input from the community.

### Woodard Bay NRCA Community Meeting

**When:** July 10, 2023  
6:00pm- 8:00pm

**Location:** South Bay Fire District Station #83  
5046 Boston Harbor Road NE  
Olympia, WA 98506

**Or join us online:**

Register in advance for the webinar at the following link or QR code:

<https://shorturl.at/gjUY3>



After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

### Why expand the boundary?

Expanding the boundary will allow DNR to seek funding to purchase private lands, from willing sellers only, at market value established by independent appraisal.

**Landowners will be under no obligation, at any time, to sell their lands to DNR.**

And no lands within the boundary are considered to be part of the natural area unless they are either acquired by DNR or are otherwise registered as such by the landowner. A boundary is simply a designated area within which DNR staff can discuss with landowners a potential future sale of property to the state for conservation, the same way the current Woodard Bay NRCA has been assembled over the past 30 years.

The proposed Woodard Bay NRCA boundary expansion would extend protection to include important wetlands, mature conifer forests, grasslands with native prairie species, and intact shoreline and salt marsh ecosystems that lie outside of the current NRCA boundary. The expansion would also increase DNR's ability to protect features within the current boundary by improving hydrologic influences on streams, wetlands, and bays, expanding terrestrial-aquatic linkages, and improving connectivity of forest habitats.

### **What is the process for expanding the boundary?**

Sometime later this year, after the community meeting, DNR will host a public hearing to receive formal comments on the proposal. Comments from both the community meeting and hearing will then be incorporated into a final boundary expansion recommendation for the Commissioner of Public Lands to consider for approval by Commissioner's Order.

### **Where can I find out more about the proposal?**

Enclosed is a fact sheet that includes a [map](#) and brief description of the proposal. As we continue through the public discussion this summer, more information will be available on the DNR website prior to the public hearing at <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/WoodardBay> (go to the link on the side bar under "Boundary Proposal 2023").

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## **MEDIA CONTACT**

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